

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problems Mailbox.**



P.B. 5818 - Patentlaan 2
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)
☎ +31 70 340 2040
TX 31651 epo nl
FAX +31 70 340 3016

Europäisches
Patentamt

Zweigstelle
in Den Haag
Recherchen-
abteilung

European
Patent Office

Branch at
The Hague
Search
division

Office européen
des brevets

Département à
La Haye
Division de la
recherche

Müller-Boré & Partner
Patentanwälte
Grafinger Strasse 2
81671 München
ALLEMAGNE

Eingegangen

09. MAI 2000

Müller-Boré & Partner
Frist: -----

Datum/Date

08.05.00

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

T 2110EU - ds

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

00102194.8-2115-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Toyo Boseki Kabushiki Kaisha

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☐ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 10 2194

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 242 500 A (ELVERS BJOERN ET AL) 7 September 1993 (1993-09-07)	1,4	C23C14/54
Y	* figure 4 *	3	
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 010, no. 078 (C-335), 27 March 1986 (1986-03-27) & JP 60 215760 A (MITSUBISHI DENKI KK), 29 October 1985 (1985-10-29) * abstract *	3	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 216 (C-1053), 28 April 1993 (1993-04-28) & JP 04 354872 A (TOPPAN PRINTING CO LTD), 9 December 1992 (1992-12-09) * abstract *	1-17	
A	DE 15 21 555 A (UNITED STATES STEEL CORP.) 5 February 1970 (1970-02-05) * page 5, line 8 - page 6, line 3 *	1-17	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A	EP 0 812 779 A (TOYO BOSEKI) 17 December 1997 (1997-12-17) * examples 1,6 *	1-17	C23C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 27 April 2000	Examiner Ekhuitt, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 10 2194

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

27-04-2000

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5242500	A	07-09-1993	DE	4027034 C	12-09-1991
			DE	4120910 A	07-01-1993
			DE	59101843 D	14-07-1994
			EP	0474964 A	18-03-1992
			ES	2054395 T	01-08-1994
			JP	1955963 C	28-07-1995
			JP	4247872 A	03-09-1992
			JP	6063089 B	17-08-1994
			DE	59202673 D	03-08-1995
			EP	0520133 A	30-12-1992
			ES	2073790 T	16-08-1995
			IT	222135 Z	09-01-1995
			JP	5179446 A	20-07-1993
			KR	9602118 B	10-02-1996
<hr/>					
JP 60215760	A	29-10-1985	NONE		
<hr/>					
JP 04354872	A	09-12-1992	NONE		
<hr/>					
DE 1521555	A	05-02-1970	BE	652778 A	08-03-1965
			FR	1411331 A	17-12-1965
			NL	6410796 A	18-03-1965
<hr/>					
EP 0812779	A	17-12-1997	JP	2700019 B	19-01-1998
			JP	5179033 A	20-07-1993
			JP	5186622 A	27-07-1993
			JP	7098872 B	25-10-1995
			JP	5214135 A	24-08-1993
			DE	69224808 D	23-04-1998
			DE	69224808 T	09-07-1998
			EP	0550039 A	07-07-1993
			US	5725958 A	10-03-1998
			US	5856017 A	05-01-1999